

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: U. S. MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO REGIONAL GROUPS

REF: (A) STATE 056794; (B) PARIS 7553; (C) USNATO 1662

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON SOVIET UNESCO COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY VAKHRUSHCHEV AND COMMUNICATED U. S. INTENTIONS AND WISHES PER PARA. 14 AND 16 REFTEL (A). VAKHRUSCHEV PROMISED SOVIETS WOULD "ATTENTIVELY STUDY" QUESTION, WHICH HE WOULD PRESENT TO SUPERIORS "IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT." HE BROADLY HINTED THAT USSR MIGHT BE WILLING TO SUPPORT OR AT LEAST NOT TO OPPOSE U. S.'S POSITION.

2. VAKHRUSHCHEV VOLUNTEERED A RAMBLING, HOUR- LONG AIRING OF "PERSONAL OPINIONS" ON THE MATTER: "THE WHOLE QUESTION -- INCLUDING THE USSR'S WISH, AS A TWO - CONTINENT POWER, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASIAN GROUP -- SHOULD BE RESOLVED. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CANNOT MAKE THE ASSIGNMENTS, IT MUST BE DONE BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, BUT THE EXBD MIGHT, VERY POSSIBLY, MAKE THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR ADOPTION. AT THE LEAST, THE EXBD COULD RECOMMEND AD HOC PARTICIPATION WHERE SIMILAR INTERESTS, BACKGROUND, ETC., SEEMED TO CALL FOR IT." IN RE THIS LAST, HE PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN

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CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION -- " NO ONE COULD OBJECT TO U. S. PARTICIPATION IN THAT." HE REFERRED, AS WELL, TO A FUTURE MEETING OF ASIAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE, BUT WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS SANGUINE ABOUT U. S. CHANCES OF PARTICIPATION THEREIN. THE APRIL EXBD MEETING, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO SETTLE THE MATTER, AND AS SUCH, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TOPIC FOR THE U. S./ U. S. S. R. NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN JULY. " THER IS," HE SAID, " SOME BASIS FOR ARRIVING AT A MUTUAL UNDERSATNDING," GOING ON TO TOUCH LIGHTLY ON THE OLD QUESTION OF THE SOVIET UNION' S NON- PAYMENT OF THE 2.5 PERCENT PAYMENT ALLOCATION OF NATIONALIST CHINA' S UNESCO CONTRIBUTION AND WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THE " U. S.' S RETENTION OF ITS RIGHT TO KEEP ITS HANDS FREE ON THIS QUESTION." WHILST NOT LABELLING THIS A QUID PRO QUO, IMPLICATION WAS THAT NO FURTHER ACTION BY THE U. S. ON THIS FINANCIAL ISSUE MIGHT INFLUENCE RESOLUTION OF " THIS GEOGRAPHICAL QUESTION."

3. RE JULY NATIONAL COMMITTEES MEETING IN MOSCOW (REFTEL (B)), SOVIETS REQUEST THAT U. S. SUBMIT, ASAP, A LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED, IN SEQUENCE OF IMPORTANCE. A PRESS POLICY, VAKHRUSCHEV SAID, SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED -- WHILE NOT A SECRET MEETING IN ANY SENSE, IT SHOULD NOT BE OVER-PUBLICIZED. IN RE THE SUGGESTED TOPIC " DE- POLITICIZATION OF UNESCO," IN THEIR VIEW TASK, AND THUS TOPIC, IMPOSSIBLE.
DUBS

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